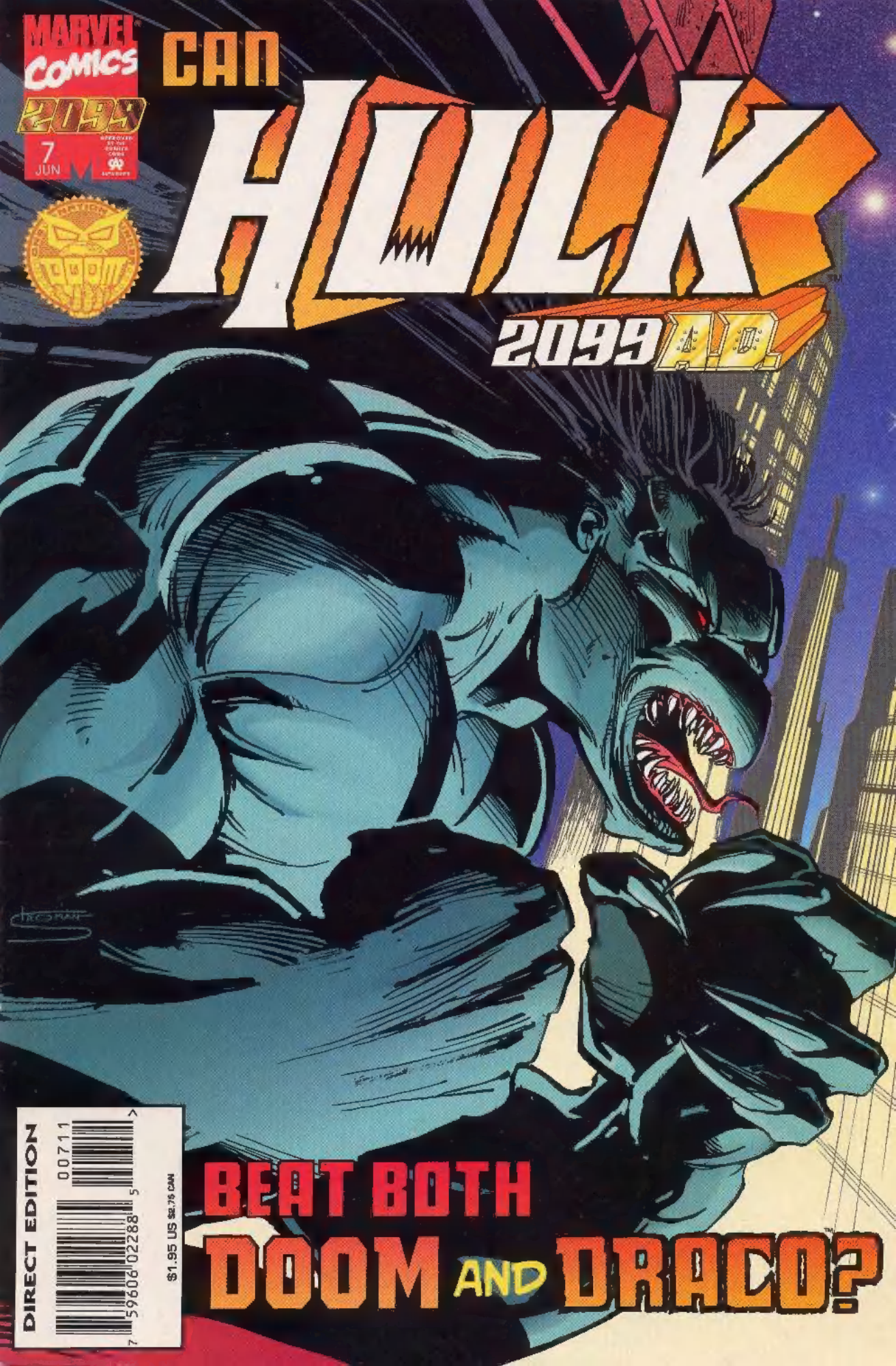
MARVEL COMICS
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HULK
2099 A.D.
BEAT BOTH
DOOM AND DRACO?
DIRECT EDITION
00711
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

GERARD JONES WRITER
JOE BENNETT PENCILS
CHRIS IVY INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
BEN SEAN COLORS
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
AND BOBBIE CHASE CHIEF
WELCOME YOU TO THE -- NEW WORLD ORDER
...AND SO I CALL FOR ALL AMERICANS, IN PARTICULAR AMERICA'S GREAT ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCERS, TO JOIN ME IN MAKING THIS GREAT NATION WHAT IT ONCE WAS... AND CAN BE AGAIN!
"PRESIDENT DOOM", eh?
GUESS THAT MAKES OUR MISSION EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, huh? I MEAN, NOW WE'RE NOT JUST TRYING TO USE VIRTUAL REALITY PROGRAMMING TO SHOW PEOPLE WHAT WHAT THE CORPORATIONS ARE DOING TO THEM...
...NOW WE'VE GOT A REAL DICTATOR TO FIGHT!
MAYBE...
DON'T BE SUCH AN ADOLESCENT, QUIRK! AMERICA'S IN SUCH DISORDER, IT CAN ONLY BENEFIT BY A STRONG-HANDED LEADER! DON'T YOU AGREE, JOHN?
YEAH, AS JOHN MAYBE I DID. KIND OF. BUT AS THE OTHER ME... WELL ALL I KNOW IS...
METAL GUYS MAKE ME NERVOUS!

HULK 2099 ™ Vol. 1, No. 7, June, 1995. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Application to mail at second class postage is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.85 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; $30.00 foreign, and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in the magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. HULK 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO HULK 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 749-6931. PRINTED IN USA.

KEISHA, HOW CAN YOU DEFEND THIS GUY? HE'S ANOTHER HITLER!
DON'T TRY TO CONFUSE ME WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA!
TRIVIA?! DON'T YOU SEE HOW--
I SEE HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE REAL WORLD--NOW! AND DOOM IS NOW!
WHY DON'T YOU SELL THAT TO HIM AS A CAMPAIGN SLOGAN!?
WHETHER DOOM MAKES THINGS EASIER OR HARDER --THE IMPORTANT THING IS, WE'RE READY NOW!
R-21
KEISHA HAS OUR FINANCES STRAIGHTEND OUT... QUIRK--YOU'VE FOUND SOME GREAT STORY MATERIAL... AND JOHN...
I'VE LINED UP SOME INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS WILLING TO GAMBLE ON LOTUSLAND CREATIONS THAT DEFY THE CORPORATE POWER BROKERS...
BUT WE NEED TO GET SOME CREATIONS TO THEM NOW, ZAMORA--IN CASE DOOM STARTS TIGHTENING UP ON FREE SPEECH RIGHTS.
THEN IT'S LUCKY THAT I'M ABOUT TO GO INTO PRODUCTION ON OUR FIRST PROJECT--
~"THE STORY OF ROSA PALUMBO!"
WHO?!
THAT'S WHAT I SAID AT FIRST. WHICH JUST PROVES HOW COMPLETELY THE CORPS CONTROL EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT OUR PAST! QUIRK DISCOVERED THE STORY IN THE COURSE OF COLLECTING OLD VID-MAGS.
AND YOU THOUGHT ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS VINTAGE SHOES!

ROSA PALUMBO LED A POPULAR MOVEMENT EARLY IN THIS CENTURY TO TURN AGAINST CONSUMERISM AND GET BACK TO REAL VALUES.
"SHE EXPOSED THE MIND-CONTROL TRICKS OF THE CORPORATIONS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME GOT PEOPLE ASKING IF A WORLD THAT VALUED GOODS MORE THAN GOOD WAS REALLY MAKING THEM HAPPY.
"IT WAS AN OLD THEME, BUT THE TIME WAS RIGHT--AND PEOPLE LISTENED!
"ROSA SHOWED US HOW A TRULY GLOBAL ECONOMY THAT PUT PEOPLE FIRST COULD EVENTUALLY MAINTAIN A STABLE AND FAIR PROSPERITY. BUT RETAIL SALES WERE HURTING, AND THE CORP-OWNED POLITICIANS WERE NERVOUS...
"SO THE BIGGEST RETAIL MONSTER OF THE TIME, I.C. GOODIE'S, INVITED ROSA AND THE LEADERS OF HER MOVEMENT TO AN 'IDEA-SHARING SUMMIT' AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS...
"MYSTERIOUSLY--CONVENIENTLY--A FIRE BROKE OUT...
"IT KILLED ROSA AND HER AIDES. IT ALSO KILLED SOME OF GOODIE'S TOP EXECS, BUT MAYBE THEY WERE JUST THE ONES THE STOCKHOLDERS FIGURED WERE EXPENDABLE.
"THE MOVEMENT LOST MOMENTUM AFTER HER DEATH... AND WITHIN A FEW DECADES THE CORP-GOVERNMENT COMPLEX WAS ABLE TO MAKE PEOPLE FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED."

YOU THINK YOU'LL BEAT THE CORPORATIONS AND STOP DR. DOOM WITH A STORY LIKE THAT?!
WE CAN SHOW PEOPLE HOW TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN LIVES! JUST DISCOVERING PALUMBO MADE ME LOOK AT MY OWN COLLECTING IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT!
SORRY, QUIRK... SHE'S GOT A POINT.
LATELY, YOU ALWAYS THINK SHE'S GOT A POINT! YOU USED TO SEE THROUGH HER, JOHN!
WE CAN'T WORK SLOWLY TO MAKE PEOPLE QUESTION THINGS NOW, QUIRK. DOOM RAISES THE STAKES! WE HAVE TO HIT HARD-- AND STRONG!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE HAVE TO DO! WE HAVE TO GET DR. APOLONIO'S MIND-INFLUENCING GAMMA-TECH UP TO SPEED--
--AND USE IT TO MAKE PEOPLE SEE WHAT WE WANT THEM TO!
NO! WE CAN'T BE THAT ARROGANT! WE'D BE SELLING OUT EVERYTHING LOTUSLAND STANDS FOR!
--I GUARANTEE YOU A MAN LIKE THAT ISN'T GOING TO HESITATE TO BE AS EXTREME AS HE HAS TO BE!
IT COULD BE... IT'S A TOUGH CALL...
ABSOLUTELY NOT. WE'RE GOING TO START MAKING V.R. PROGRAMS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT DOOM.
QUIRK-- COME UP WITH ANYTHING YOU CAN ON THE 20th CENTURY DOOM!
IF WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO BE EXTREME, WE'RE GOING TO BE CRUSHED. BECAUSE IF DOOM WANTS TO SHUT US DOWN--
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WE CAN'T DO IT!!
ALL RIGHT!

WE CAN USE SOME OF MY PERIOD DESIGNS FROM THE PALUMBO PROJECT.
GREAT! I LOVE YOUR VISUALS!
IT'S MUTUAL.
BUT I JUST DID THE MUSIC!
I KNOW.
OH.
LET'S GET TO WORK!
"WORK," HE SAYS.
IT MUST BE QUITE A KNIFE IN YOUR HEART TO SEE THEM FLAUNTING THEIR LITTLE WHATEVER-THEY'VE GOT-GOING IN YOUR FACE, MMM, JOHN?
I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NOT IF I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIND INDIE DISTRIBUTORS WILLING TO TAKE ON ANTI-DOOM PROGRAMS.
YEAH?
SHE DID, DIDN'T SHE?
WONDER WHERE YOU YOU GOT AN IDEA LIKE THAT?
FUNNY. I WAS UNDER THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT LITTLE QUIRK MEANT SOMETHING TO YOU ONCE...
SHE MEANT A LOT... BUT NOW SHE'S JUST SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP GET THIS JOB DONE.
WHAT HAPPENED?

DRACO! GOOD TIMING! OUR HULK-BUSTING PLANS ARE PROGRESSING QUITE--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, GOLDEN ONE. YOU MIGHT EVEN WANT TO SAVE YOURSELF THE WORK.
OUR NEW PRESIDENT DOOM IS SUCH A THREAT TO ALL MY DESIGNS FOR TAKING POWER IN CALIFORNIA THAT UNLESS HE IS UNDONE... WE MAY AS WELL APPLY FOR CIVIL SERVICE JOBS!
CAN YOU DESTROY THE HULK NOW? BECAUSE OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO SEIZE LOTUSLAND STUDIOS IMMEDIATELY AND TAKE FULL CONTROL OF LOS ANGELES BEFORE DOOM CAN CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER IN THE WEST.
IT CAN'T BE DONE! WE'RE NOT READY! YOU HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STALL DOOM!
REALLY? DID I MAKE AN ERROR WHEN I CHOSE TO ALLY MYSELF WITH--
BZZT
MK 20
MR. DRACO! FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION --BUT SOMETHING--A WHOLE BUNCH OF SOMETHINGS--
--HAS JUST APPEARED IN L.A. AIRSPACE?
WHAT?!
DOOM.
IT MUST BE DOOM. BUT WHAT IS HE DOING? I MUST KNOW.
PREPARE THE PROBES!

Whaat? You mean we have to do this again this month? How we continue to—Oh. Hel-lo. Didn't see you there. Nice shirt. Welcome to the 2099 Bullpen Bulletins Page. We return despite a cruel worlds best efforts to the contrary. Yeah, well, what doesn't kill us makes us stronger, so here we go.

First Order of Business: For a number of reasons, none of which we're all that crazy about, Matt Morra won't be editing titles in the 2099 line for the foreseeable future...and we hope that that's a turn of events that will reverse itself in time to come. Matt'll still be around, doing a lot of advising and consulting...(like reminding Joey how to spell "Dethstryk"). Till you're back here for good, Matt, remember, this is only the end of Act 2...

Second Order of Business: You wanna know how Spidey 2099 Project X is going, do ya? Boy, there's no getting anything past you. All right, how about this? Suppose we told you that not only is Rick Leonardi busy drawing it, but our pet name for the project around here is Spider-Man Meets Spider-Man...What would you think of that? Now remember...it's just our secret!

Third Order of Business: Is Punisher 2099 A.D. Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. the absolute longest title you'll see on a comic book this year or what? Our especial thanks to Todd Klein, who suffered through its design and revision. The first issue with that logo invited you to join the new organization founded by Doom... and if you did, you discovered a lot of new cast members, as well as the return of some requested oldies! This month, the title develops further...and we'd hate to do it without you! Our book has always been a slightly skewed version of vigilante characters...so even if ya don't go for that sorta thing, give this book a try!

2099 BITMAPPED

Fourth Order of Business: Speaking of mail we love it! We pore through all of it! We roam and skulk the bulletin boards looking for e-mail, too! Most of what we've done in the past has been based on your comments...and we plan ahead using your suggestions and criticisms! So if you're considering writing (or posting), do it! We're listening!

More Of Marvel 2099 A.D.

Spider-Man 2099 A.D. #32: Spidey got his costume during the "Day of the Dead" festival in Mexico...and now it's that time of year again, a time to revisit a heritage!

Hulk 2099 A.D. #7: Draco's a big enough thorn in Greenskin's side! It's not enough that the villainous genius wants control of Lotusland...Doom wants it, too!

Ravage 2099 A.D. #31: Ravage, Hela, Ferra and Ursell are close to having Hellrock all sewn up...now if they could just talk Dethstryk and the Seeress off the property! Did we say "talk"? Yeah, right!

X-Men 2099 A.D. #21: Halloween Jack and Meanstreak apparently can't get enough of Vegas, and Krystalin learns what Doom has in mind for the X-Men's territory!

Ghost Rider 2099 A.D. #14: It's called "Under New Management," and truer words were never spoken! GR wakes to find Doom in charge of everything...including him!

Punisher 2099 A.D. #29 Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. #29: Jake trains a cadre of new agents...not all of whom have his best interests at heart. Plus the return of Jigsaw!

PROJECT X

Sixth Order of Business: Yeah, so the Fleischmanns couldn't convince Joey to go visit them. (Apparently, Joey figured he was gonna fall down one of the Mines of Moria or something...) Realizing they were up against a power greater than Gollum, they came to down and dropped off the rough pencil layouts for their X-Men 2099 Bookshelf Edition entitled "Oasis." Wanna see? Ya can't. All right, maybe if you ask politely...

Fifth Order of Business: Doom's still in charge, you'll notice. How 'bout those covers by Pat Broderick? How 'bout those stories by Warren Ellis, whose concepts and cool dialogue have doubled the mail on his issues? How 'bout that new cast of characters...and our creative team's twist on the old ones? How 'bout you pck it up to see what everybody's raving 'bout!

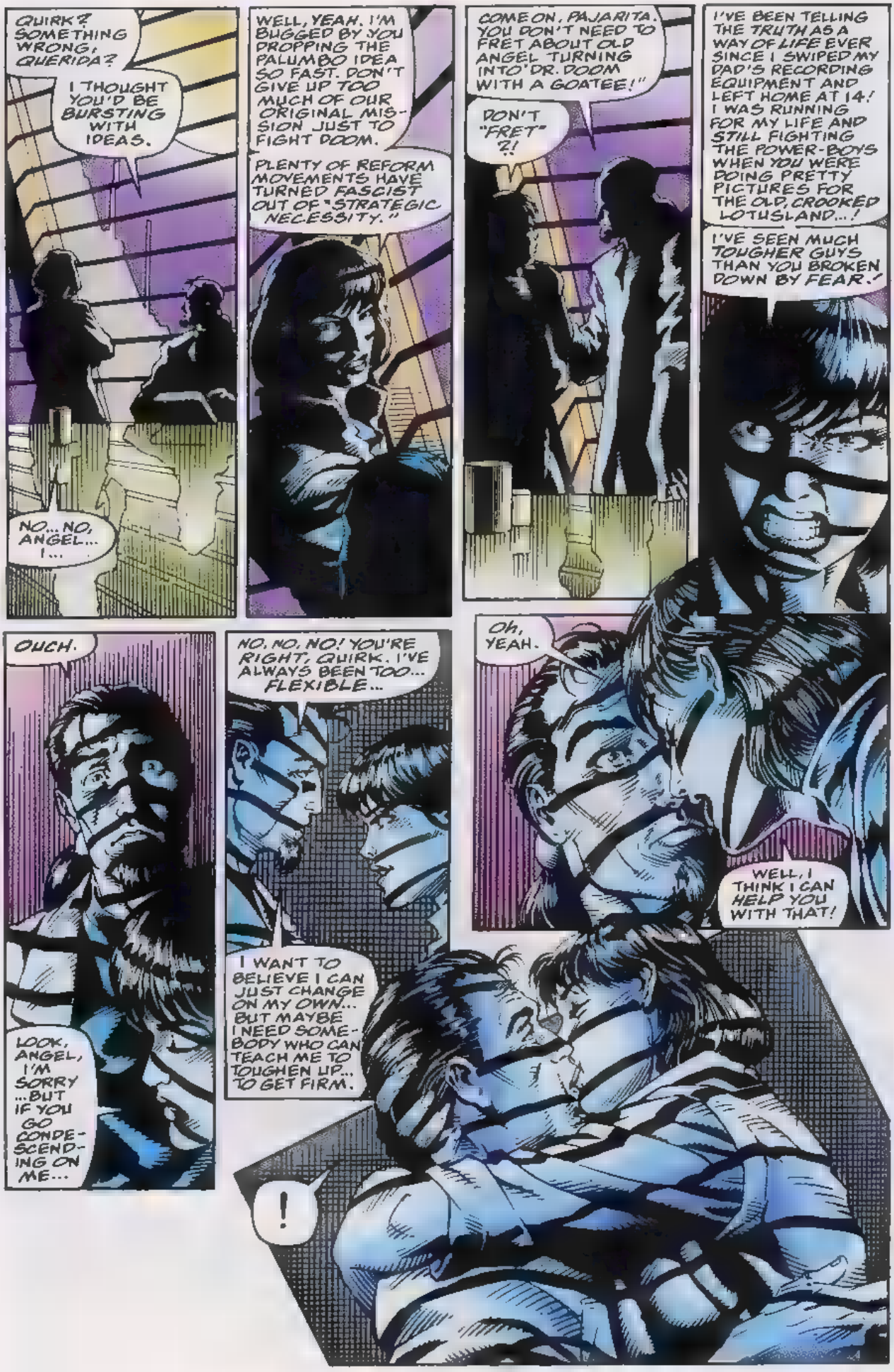
YOU TRY TO PACK SOMETHING LIKE THIS DEEP INSIDE YOU, BUT THAT JUST MEANS IT HAS MORE GUTS TO CHEW UP ON ITS WAY BACK TO YOUR BRAIN.
NOTHING'S SCARIER THAN ACTING A WAY YOU DON'T THINK IS YOU.
NOTHING... EXCEPT MAYBE NOT EVEN KNOWING WHICH YOU IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE.
ME LEANING TOWARD KEISHA'S SIDE IN THE GAMMA-TECH ARGUMENT -- WAS THAT THE JOHN EISENHART I KNOW? MAYBE. MAYBE THE EISENHART I KNEW BEFORE EVERYTHING HAPPENED THAT TURNED ME INTO THE HULK.
IT FEELS COMFORTABLE. FEELS POWERFUL. BUT THERE'S A VOICE IN ME -- A BIG DEEP VOICE -- A GREEN VOICE -- THAT SAYS "IF YOU START THINKING LIKE THAT I'M GONNA HAVE TO KILL YOU."
AND I'M FINDING MYSELF THINKING -- I'D BETTER KILL HIM FIRST.
UP THERE! WHAT IS IT?!
UP...
GOOD LORD!
DOOM.
IT HAS TO BE.
SOME KIND OF SPY-EYE OR WEAPON. ALREADY MOVING TO TAKE CONTROL.
WELL, IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

NOT IN LOTUSLAND.
NOT WHILE I'M HERE.
DOOM!
I DON'T CARE HOW HIGH THAT THING IS~
DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO JUMP HIGHER THAN I'VE EVER JUMPED~
~I'M GONNA GET THERE~

AND YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU NEVER CAME INTO MY BACKYARD!!
SHA-BRAM

I DO A LITTLE AIR-SURFING TO TAKE THE THING AWAY FROM LOTUS-LAND AND L.A., STRAIGHT FOR THE BARREN HILLS...
I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING IN THE SKY-- MORE OF THESE THINGS, DOZENS OF THEM MOVING INTO PLACE...
THEN MISSILES. SOMEBODY ELSE IS SHOOTING AT ONE OF THESE FLYING SALAD CARTONS.
SUDDENLY, THEY'RE GONE. NO EXPLOSION OR SIGNS OF IMPACT. LIKE THEY JUST DISAPPEARED INTO THE THING...
I WONDER ABOUT IT...
BLOOM
BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND.

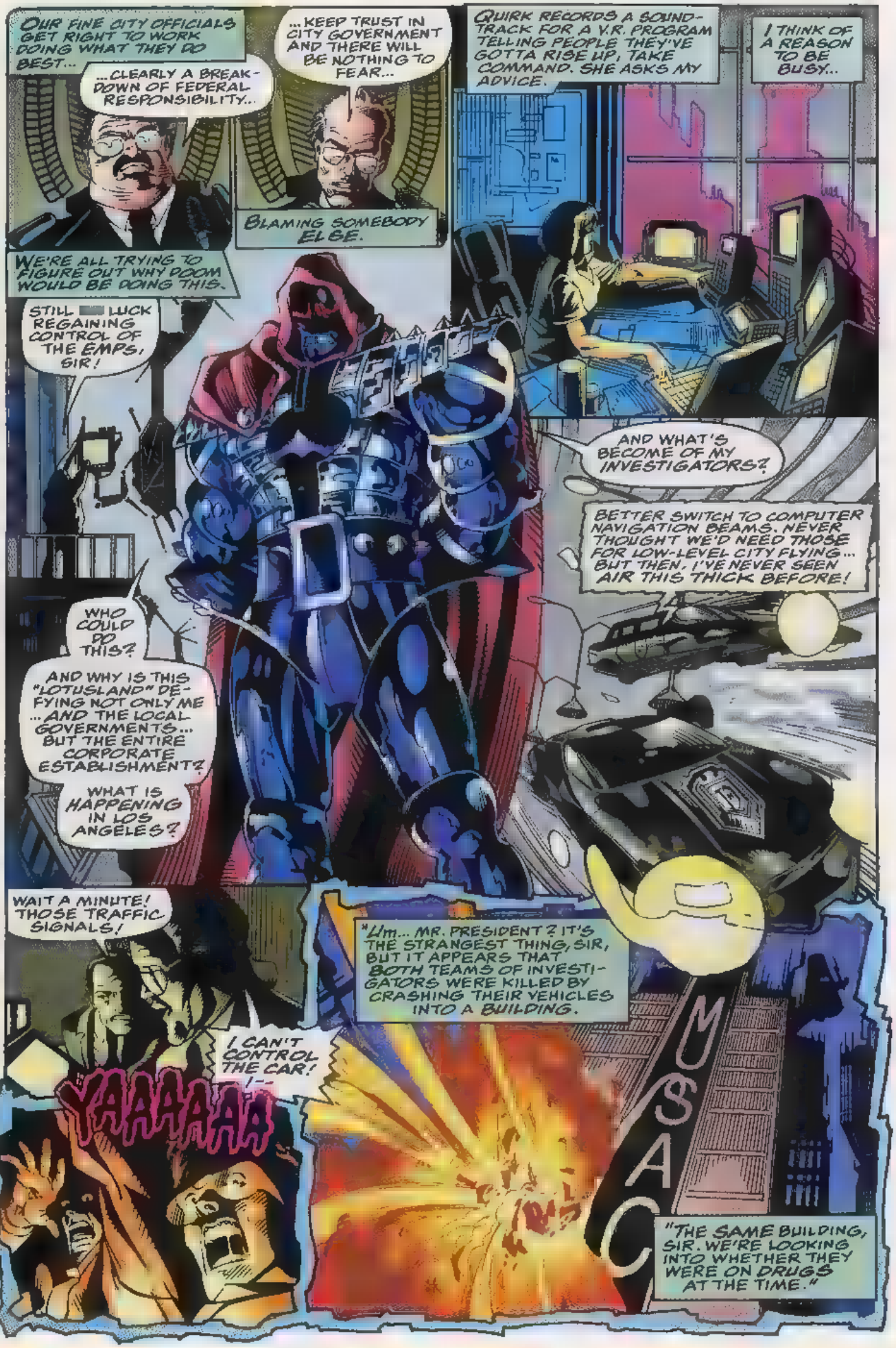
NOW, THE BALTIMORE CONTAMINATION...
EXCUSE ME, MR. PRESIDENT... BUT AN EMP HAS JUST BEEN DESTROYED BY AN UNKNOWN ATTACKER OVER LOS ANGELES!
TROUBLING. CALIFORNIA IS THE ONE IMPORTANT AREA LEAST UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE OLD FEDERAL POWER STRUCTURE, AND I HAVE NO MILITARY BUILD-UP THERE YET. IT WILL BE THE TOUGHEST NUT TO CRACK...
THERE ARE REPORTS OF GLITCHES FROM OTHER EMPS IN THE AREA AS WELL...
"MIGHT?" I NEED ANSWERS! SEND INVESTIGATORS IMMEDIATELY! I MUST HAVE LOS ANGELES UNDER MY CONTROL BEFORE IT BECOMES UNCONTROLLABLE!
...BUT THAT MIGHT BE A PHENOMENON OF THE OTHER'S DESTRUCTION...
AND THAT CITY MAY PROVE INVALUABLE TO ME. BY TAKING COMMAND OF THE OPINION-SHAPING POWER OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, I CAN FORGE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO MAKE MY CONTROL OF AMERICA... ABSOLUTE!
PREPARE MY BROADCAST EXPLAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS.
YES, SIR.
USE EMPS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION TO END TORNADO ACTIVITY BUILDING OVER WISCONSIN.
YES, SIR.
AND MAKE SURE THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT HAS SMOOTH AIR CURRENTS FOR HIS STATE VISIT.
YES, SIR.


QUIRK? SOMETHING WRONG, QUERIDA?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BURSTING WITH IDEAS.
NO... NO, ANGEL... !...
WELL, YEAH. I'M BUGGED BY YOU DROPPING THE PALUMBO IDEA SO FAST. DON'T GIVE UP TOO MUCH OF OUR ORIGINAL MISSION JUST TO FIGHT DOOM.
PLENTY OF REFORM MOVEMENTS HAVE TURNED FASCIST OUT OF "STRATEGIC NECESSITY."
COME ON, PAJARITA. YOU DON'T NEED TO FRET ABOUT OLD ANGEL TURNING INTO DR. DOOM WITH A GOATEE!"
DON'T "FRET" ?!
I'VE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH AS A WAY OF LIFE EVER SINCE I SWIPED MY DAD'S RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND LEFT HOME AT 14! I WAS RUNNING FOR MY LIFE AND STILL FIGHTING THE POWER-BOYS WHEN YOU WERE DOING PRETTY PICTURES FOR THE OLD, CROOKED LOTUSLAND...!
I'VE SEEN MUCH TOUGHER GUYS THAN YOU BROKEN DOWN BY FEAR."
OUCH.
LOOK, ANGEL, I'M SORRY ...BUT IF YOU GO CONDESCENDING ON ME...
NO, NO, NO! YOU'RE RIGHT, QUIRK. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO... FLEXIBLE...
I WANT TO BELIEVE I CAN JUST CHANGE ON MY OWN... BUT MAYBE I NEED SOMEBODY WHO CAN TEACH ME TO TOUGHEN UP... TO GET FIRM.
Oh, YEAH.
WELL, I THINK I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT!
!

LOTUSLAND... AT LAST.
DIDN'T THINK MY LEGS WERE GONNA LAST... NOT AFTER THAT CRASH...
...BUT I HAD TO DO IT. HAD TO GET BACK IN TIME TO WARN...
ZAMORA AND...
...Quirk.
FOR A SPLIT SECOND I WANT TO EXPLODE THROUGH THE WALL, POUND THAT GOAT-BEARDED LITTLE CHUMP TO JELLY.
THEN I THINK, "NO, I DON'T WANT TO. THE HULK WANTS TO."
BUT ISN'T THAT ME? ISN'T THAT THE ME I WANT TO BE?!
ISN'T IT?!

EXCELLENT.
THANKS TO THE PROBES WE FIRED INTO THESE EMPS WHILE THE HULK PROVIDED HIS UNWITTING DISTRACTION, I NOW HAVE ALL THE DATA I NEED TO CONTROL THEM, AT LEAST WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE BROADCAST AREA.
PRESIDENT DOOM HAS DONE A FINE JOB CONQUERING CYBERSPACE THROUGHOUT AMERICA, BUT I STILL HAVE WAYS OF CLOAKING MY ACTIVITIES...
I CAN RECALIBRATE THESE PLATFORMS AND THUS FORCE BOTH MY ENEMIES' HANDS!
"OF COURSE THIS WILL KILL MANY THOUSANDS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, BUT MOSTLY ONLY CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY.
"IT WILL BE WELL WORTH THE PRICE."

THE NEXT DAY IS HOT.
THE DAY AFTER IS HOTTER.
DOOM TELLS EVERYBODY THAT HIS EMP'S ARE THERE TO FIX THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT IN L.A., WE'RE NOT BUYING IT. ZAMORA'S GONNA DO SOME FACT-FINDING, SEE IF DOOM'S REALLY DOING THIS ON PURPOSE.
THE THIRD DAY, IT'S NOT JUST HEAT. THEY USED TO MAKE JOKES ABOUT THE L.A. SMOG IN THE 20th CENTURY, BUT I'M BETTING IT WAS NEVER LIKE THIS.
ME, I'M JUST MAKING SURE NO MORE EMP's SHOW UP RIGHT ON TOP OF LOTUSLAND. I DON'T WANT TO PROVOKE THE BIG FIGHT WITH DOOM UNTIL I KNOW THE FACTS.
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I DON'T WANT ANYBODY PEEKING DOWN MY BLOUSE.
THE FOURTH DAY. IT'S NOT SMOG. IT'S POISON.


OUR FINE CITY OFFICIALS GET RIGHT TO WORK DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST...
...CLEARLY A BREAK-DOWN OF FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY..
...KEEP TRUST IN CITY GOVERNMENT AND THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO FEAR...
BLAMING SOMEBODY ELSE.
QUIRK RECORDS A SOUND-TRACK FOR A V.R. PROGRAM TELLING PEOPLE THEY'VE GOTTA RISE UP, TAKE COMMAND. SHE ASKS MY ADVICE.
I THINK OF A REASON TO BE BUSY..
WE'RE ALL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY DOOM WOULD BE DOING THIS.
STILL [redacted] LUCK REGAINING CONTROL OF THE EMPS, SIR!
AND WHAT'S BECOME OF MY INVESTIGATORS?
BETTER SWITCH TO COMPUTER NAVIGATION BEAMS. NEVER THOUGHT WE'D NEED THOSE FOR LOW-LEVEL CITY FLYING... BUT THEN, I'VE NEVER SEEN AIR THIS THICK BEFORE!
WHO COULD DO THIS?
AND WHY IS THIS "LOTUSLAND" DEFYING NOT ONLY ME ...AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS... BUT THE ENTIRE CORPORATE ESTABLISHMENT?
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LOS ANGELES?
WAIT A MINUTE! THOSE TRAFFIC SIGNALS!
"UM... MR. PRESIDENT? IT'S THE STRANGEST THING, SIR, BUT IT APPEARS THAT BOTH TEAMS OF INVESTIGATORS WERE KILLED BY CRASHING THEIR VEHICLES INTO A BUILDING.
I CAN'T CONTROL THE CAR! I--
YAAAAAA!
MSAC
"THE SAME BUILDING, SIR. WE'RE LOOKING INTO WHETHER THEY WERE ON DRUGS AT THE TIME."

BY THE END OF THE FOURTH DAY, THE CRACKS ARE SHOWING...
I'M FINISHED WITH YOU, ZAMORA! YOU AND LOTUSLAND! THIS "IDEALISTIC" APPROACH OF YOURS WON'T GET US ANYTHING BUT PRETTY INSCRIPTIONS ON OUR TOMBSTONES!
KEISHA--WAIT!
WE MUST STAY TOGETHER NOW!
YEAH, RIGHT! THE ONLY ONE I NEED TO BE TOGETHER WITH IS APOLONIO. HE AND I CAN USE THAT GAMMA-TECH... WITH OR WITHOUT THE REST OF THEM!
FOUR DAYS--FOUR DAYS--AND WE CANNOT CRACK THE ALGORITHMS THAT WOULD GIVE ME CONTROL OF THE DATA-SYSTEMS OF CALIFORNIA!
CLEARLY I HAVE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT THERE... PLAYING HIS DATA-GAMES... CONCEALING HIMSELF. I MUST GET AROUND HIM. I NEED AN ALLY THERE.
LOTUSLAND.
AND SO THE GAME NEARS ITS CONCLUSION...
THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE.
IT'S ENOUGH!
I'M NOT GONNA WAIT ANYMORE! I'M GONNA SETTLE THIS!

I...I DON'T KNOW, KEISHA! IT'S SO MUCH POWER!
IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE, DOCTOR! IF WE DON'T USE THAT MIND-SHAPING THING OF YOURS, THEN--
YEAH, KEISHA? THEN WHAT?
HULK!
DR. APOP-OP-POL-OLONIO AND I WERE JUST JUH--
STICK A SOCK IN IT, IF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO DOESN'T WORK, IT MAY NOT MATTER WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING.
'SCUZE MY ARM, DOC, BUT I NEED SOME TECHNICAL WIZARDRY TO PULL THIS OFF!
NOW SIT TIGHT, KEISHA. BEHAVE YOURSELF, AND KEEP YOUR GAS MASK CLEAN.
GOOD LUCK, HULK! WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING--I HAVE FAITH!
NOW, WHERE WOULD APOLONIO KEEP THAT THING?

IT'S A TOUGHER JUMP THIS TIME. MAYBE DOOM MOVED HIS GADGETS A LITTLE HIGHER. MAYBE MY LEGS ARE STILL MESSED UP FROM THE CRASH. MAYBE APOLONIO'S GOT TOO MANY CARDS IN HIS WALLET...
DOESN'T MATTER.
I GOTTA MAKE IT.
AND I DO.
NOW CHECK IT OUT, DOC. WE CAN'T WIN THIS FIGHT BY TRYING TO ACE ALL OF DOOM'S EMPS ONE BY ONE.
DOOM'LL STRIKE BACK TOO FAST FOR THAT... BUT IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW THEY WORK...
THEN WE MAYBE ABLE TO SNAFU THEM ALL!
YES!
THE TECHNOLOGY IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT NOT TERRIBLY ARCANE... THIS APPEARS TO [redacted] A CONTROL PANEL FOR THE WHOLE THING...

INTERESTING. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THIS SHOULD...
Uh-oh.
TELL SEÑOR PRESIDENTE THAT I WILL BE...
MR. PRESIDENT! MR. PRESIDENT! WE'VE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES EMPS!!
NOW!
THE PROPULSION SYSTEM!
IT'S BLASTING DOWN-WARD!
Whoosh

WE'RE GOING UP!
AND FAST. WE'VE ALREADY GONE TOO FAR TO RISK JUMPING DOWN. IF THE FALL DOESN'T KILL ME, IT'LL DEFINITELY KILL APOLONIO, EVEN IF HE'S IN MY ARMS.
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED!

PERFECT. AND WITH THE HULK OUT OF MY WAY...
"...LOTUSLAND WILL SOON BE MINE!"
N·E·X·T
SOMEBODY SELLS OUT!

TONGUE LASHINGS

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Off With His Head

By now, of course, you realize that my scheme to place Environmental Maintenance Uniforms all over Totusland was done to change the environment...of this book, so I could appear in it more often! Soon, my EMPs will cover the globe allowing me to be in every 2099 book, every Marvel title, and a few of the competition's, as well!

World domination is lonely but rewarding!

Dear Tongue Lashers,

Hulk 2099's new book is everything I hoped it would be. Gerard Jones is writing his best stories and Malcolm Davis was a great choice for penciler. Hulk 2099 has been my favorite character since 2099 UNLIMITED #1. I like the way he's so wild compared to his predecessor. What kind of eating habits does he have?

As for crossover ideas, how about Ravage or Bloodhawk? They're all ecologically interested heroes. Or maybe Hulk vs. X-Men. Although I don't like the idea of present day crossovers, I wouldn't mind a Hulk 2099 vs. Hulk grudge match.

Oh, and please give Lachryma 2099 her own book!

Until Hulk 2099 gets his own live-action TV series, Make Mine Marvel 2099.

Zack Meyman
Waseca, MN

Well, Zack, our Hulk is sort of a meat and potatoes kind of guy. And look for him to team with some other characters from 2099 to cause some real trouble.

Dear Tongue Lashers,

I just thought to drop you a letter to let you know what I think of this new hit series from Marvel. The creative team of Gerry Jones, Malcolm Davis and Chris Ivy is great.

I love this book and enjoyed the first two issues. Draco is a very cool villain, though I've got the impression that he's an updated version of the Leader.

I'll bet you'll be creating new villains in future issues. Just don't make 'em similar to today's villains in the present day Hulk book.

Marcel Hagendoorn
Hoofddorp, The Netherlands

Gerry, scratch that Abomination 2099 idea.

Dear Mean, Green and Ugly makers,

I just finished reading HULK 2099 #1. It was fantastic! The art, the story, the characters, heck, even the lettering! It was truly a relief after waiting so many months. What took ya, anyway? I knew you'd pick green metallic foil. "Gee, I wonder why?"

Will Hulk still make appearances in 2099 UNLIMITED?

And about the 2099 SKETCHBOOK. I started collecting late and missed it. Will it ever be available again? How about if I offered you a bribe?

Well, until Hulk eats my school's cafeteria food, and turns purple Make Mine Marvel 2099!

And by the way, will Quirk ever shoot rays from her eyes (Kyle)?

Thomas "Wade" Santiago
Hollywood, FL

Here's someone who reads all the books, Joey. I have no clue what to tell him! --Lia

Ask what kind of bribe. --Joey

Dear Tongue Lashers,

First, congrats for having five of the seven monthly titles in the top 100! At the risk of sounding sycophantic, or psychofanatic, Marvel's futureverse is one of the best offerings on the market, in as much as contemporary issues are addressed.

One such tale was "Water God" (UNLIMITED #3), wherein Gerard Jones explores Colorado River water use rights, and the rights of illegal immigrants under the Constitutionally challenged CA Prop #187. I like stories with social consequence. Keep it up!

With HULK #3 there are eleven episodes of the John Eisenhart saga, and Gerry has developed John's character quickly without rushing the stories. Jones' and Tom Smith's work has been consistent despite there being eight artists to execute Jones' vision. The recent team of Malcolm Davis and Chris Ivy are the best yet, though I still like Dwayne Turner's work. The thing I find most interesting, if not ironic, is that the pencils and inks seem to adapt to the colors, as if Mr. Smith fills the frame and Messrs. Davis and Ivy put down the lines instead of the other way around.

I also like Hulk 2099's transformations of late, both physically, with the tongue becoming more rounded, and spiritually, through John's remorse and denial to his self-acceptance. I was saddened by Gawain's death, but recognize it as the catalyst for John's new direction. I guess altruism and nobility do rub off. Much more on the other hand, the Human Tribe are the biggest group of morons I've ever seen in comics. At least they'll make good fodder for when Doom takes over!

On a lighter note, John and Quirk make a good couple. As detestable as Keisha is, I hope y'all don't kill her. At least let her be the architect of her own demise, or upgrade her to first class villain. Perhaps she's a mutant. I'd also really like to see John's sister, Marian, again.

Another part of the 2099 appeal is the constant references to my icons. When is Jackie O showing up? Remake Super Bowl XXII, or why not VII, complete with a young Don Shula?

Oh and hey, read I, Robot: The Illustrated Screenplay and then answer the question, "Who's smarter, Doom or Susan Calvin?" I'm waiting anxiously for the glossy pages since they're the best for comics.

Randy Phillips
Peoria, IL

Colorado River water rights? Gee, and here Gerry was concerned he wasn't writing commercial enough...

Dear Creators of the BIGGEST 2099 characters,

I loved the first issue, but of course, I have a few questions;

1. Is Draco supposed to be the Leader 2099? It's his head that's tipping me off.

2. I missed a couple of 2099 UNLIMITEDS but how did the Hulk find Gawain?

3. Since HULK 2099 takes place in Hollywood, which isn't very far from Nevada, where the X-Men are, how about a crossover?

4. Draw the Hulk more animalistic, like 2099 UNLIMITED #1. He's beginning to look like the original.

5. I love the Hulk's spinal column!

Matthew Inglis
Port Arthur, TX

1. Nonsense. 2. Gawain was a young acolyte of the Knights of the Banner, which John Eisenhart was researching. 3. Maybe. 4. Take a look at the new gamma radiated Hulk! 5. Thanks!

Next Issue

Two, count 'em, two villains menace our Hulk! Draco and the Golden One show up, so you can "Pick Your Poison!"